

Docket No. 242649US2/shb



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Yoshiharu KANDA, et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/660,691

GAU: 2874

FILED: September 12, 2003

EXAMINER:

FOR: OPTICAL FIBER AXIAL ALIGNMENT METHOD AND RELATED DEVICE, AND OPTICAL FIBER FUSION SPLICING METHOD AND RELATED DEVICE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

**REFERENCES**

The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references cited in the attached European Search Report listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.

A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

**RELATED CASES**

Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. A copy of the patent(s), together with a copy of the claims and drawings of the pending application(s) is attached along with PTO 1449.

A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

**CERTIFICATION**

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

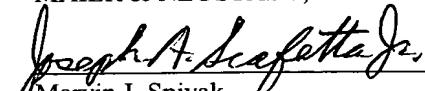
No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT**

Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check or credit card payment is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

  
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Marvin J. Spivak

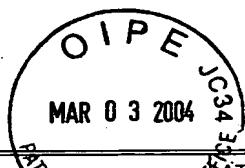
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SHEET 1 OF 1

Form PTO 1449 (Modified)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 242649US2	SERIAL NO. 10/660,691		
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT				APPLICANT Yoshiharu KANDA, et al.			
				FILING DATE September 12, 2003		GROUP 2874	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	4,102,717	07/25/1978	P. C. HENSEL			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						
	AL						
	AM						
	AN						
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION		
	AO	0 278 423	08/17/1988	EUROPE	YES		NO
	AP	61-112106	05/30/1986	JAPAN (with English Abstract)			X
	AQ	59-1118	01/05/1984	JAPAN (with English Abstract)			X
	AR	2000-275462	10/06/2000	JAPAN (with English Abstract)			X
	AS	62-210406	09/16/1987	JAPAN (with English Abstract)			X
	AT	1 174 744	01/23/2002	EUROPE			
	AU						
	AV						
<b>OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)</b>							
	AW						
	AX						
	AY						
	AZ					<input type="checkbox"/> Additional References sheet(s) attached	
Examiner				Date Considered			

\*Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.